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THREE EXPLOSIONS ATTEND FIRE WHICH RAZES BUSINESS DISTRICT OF NORFOLK, VA.

HYLAN SAYS GOTHAM RULED ON "WAR BASIS"

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—The government of New York City must be placed on a "war basis," the new mayor, John F. Hylan, told the newly appointed heads of departments in his inaugural address today. This must be brought about, he said, through the elimination of useless positions, the enforcement of strict economy and conservation of public funds. "There will be, he said, no salary increases for city employees receiving more than \$1,500 a year."

Among the more important appointments were Frederick A. Bugher, a former deputy police commissioner, as police commissioner; Representative Murray Hurlbert, as commissioner of docks and ferries, and Bird S. Cole, as commissioner of public charities. Mr. Cole was democratic candidate for governor of New York several years ago. It was stated that Representative Hurlbert will resign from congress next week.

It is the duty of this city's administration to make democracy a concrete thing in its affairs, Mayor Hylan said. "Because we are the greatest city in the world and the city of America, the whole world best knows, and the city of America which is typical of America."

"Democracy will emerge from the war triumphant, and the democracy of America will lead the world. New York City is the hub of our nation, the most complex of all its problems, and its progress toward efficiency in government will be marked everywhere."

The passing of the office of coroner in New York City was signalled when Mayor Hylan appointed Patrick D. Riordan, who held the office of coroner, to succeed himself with the new title of "chief medical inspector" with five borough officials under him who will be known as medical inspectors instead of coroners.

Venezelos Pleased At Declaration of War On Austria

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
ROME, Monday, Dec. 31.—"I was rejoiced when I learned that President Wilson declared war on Austria, because America's complete participation in the conflict means the arraying of the whole democracy of the world against the central empires," said Elphtherios Venezelos, premier of Greece, to the Associated Press. "America brings not only a contribution of men, but financial forces and moral support."

"I am convinced that any proposition of peace comes from the central empires will increase President Wilson's skepticism, making that great statesman even more cautious," the Greek premier added.

Mr. Venezelos regards the repeated and insistent pacifist attempts of the central empires as a sign of weakness and their belief that final victory will be with the entente allies.

The last German military attempt, according to the Greek premier, painfully failed at the Ploiești, which the Marne, is the line on which the second great phase of the European war will be decided against the central powers.

ANOTHER REVERSE FOR ARMS OF THE TEUTONIC IN ITALY IS EFFECTED BY THE FRENCH

NOT FOR PERMANENT PREPAREDNESS POLICY

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 1.—Speaking under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. war council, former President William H. Taft today told six thousand national army soldiers at Camp Dodge that the United States is fighting for and why it is at war.

In opening his address, Mr. Taft outlined the series of outrages which Germany committed against the United States, and showed that at all times the United States acted within its right under international law.

"The American people are naturally peaceable," he said. "We do not care for war, or the autocratic method which must necessarily be adopted during a war."

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
The United States will never adopt a policy of permanent preparedness. Its people are not inclined in that direction. It will always be found unready to meet an attack by an aggressive and prepared militaristic nation, such as Germany.

"It is for this reason that the United States must fight this war to a conclusion, peacefully inclined, need fear a sudden attack by Germany."

Mr. Taft arrived here this morning. He spoke at the camp in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium once in the afternoon and again in the evening. Three meetings will be addressed tomorrow by the former president, one at ten o'clock in the morning, another during the afternoon and one at 7:30 p. m.

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
Another Thirteen persons were killed and thirty-four others wounded, the majority of them civilians. Only small material damage resulted from the new reverses.

Likewise the operations on the fronts in France and Belgium are being confined almost exclusively to bombardments, although the German war office claims a further gain of ground by the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria over the British south of Marbourg in the Cambrai sector.

There are persistent reports that heavy fighting is in progress between the British and the German forces in the southwestern Russian sector, and that the casualties have been heavy. No details of an authentic nature have yet come through, but the reports say the Bolsheviks have been defeated on the southwestern front with numerous losses of men and guns, but they have occupied the important town of Poltava.

Still further progress has been made by the British troops operating against the Turks in Palestine north of Jerusalem. The Turks in the fighting of the last several days have lost more than 1,000 men killed and 750 made prisoners.

AMERICAN RAILWAY MISSION ARRESTED IN SIBERIA

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
LONDON, Jan. 1.—It is reported that the Bolsheviks have arrested the members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk, Siberia, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Petrograd.

The United States railroad commission to the Russian government arrived in Petrograd last June, and until the recent Bolshevik disturbances had been actively engaged in assisting the Russian railways out of their operating difficulties.

The personnel of the commission, which was not officially announced, followed by John F. Stevens of New York, former chief engineer of the Panama canal, chairman; W. L. Darling of St. Paul, chief engineer of the Northern Pacific railway; Henry Miller of St. Louis, former operating vice president of the Wabash railroad; George Gibbs of Philadelphia, former chief mechanical engineer of the Pennsylvania railroad; and J. E. Connor of Baltimore, chief consulting engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

"Chairman Stevens had the rank of minister plenipotentiary to the Russian government, but his appointment did not infringe on the status of David R. Francis, the American ambassador."

A dispatch from Tokyo dated December 27 said Mr. Stevens had arrived at Nagasaki, Japan, December 13, from Vladivostok, and that he had reserved the accommodations of an entire hotel in Nagasaki for 420 members of his staff who accompanied him. The dispatch also carried a statement from Mr. Stevens in which he declared it was his intention to return to Russia with his staff and remain there as long as they could be of any assistance to the Russian people.

No Word of Arrest
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—No word from official sources had reached the state department tonight regarding the reported arrest of members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk. The department's communication with Russia has been very irregular, however, and officials would not be surprised if the report were true. An inquiry will be sent to Ambassador Francis in Petrograd.

Although several hundred men, arms comprising several hundred men, are in Siberia to assist in improving conditions on the trans-Siberian railway, it is thought that only a few could have been at Irkutsk. They probably are scattered in small detachments along the entire route.

There have been frequent rumors that the railway mission was about to withdraw and return to this country, but the state department has indicated that the men would be kept at their posts.

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THREE GENERALS BACK FROM FRANCE TRAINING AMERICAN FORCES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 1.—Major General George A. Mann, William L. Sibert and Richard M. Blatchford of the United States army, who have been with the American expeditionary forces in France, arrived today on a French steamship. It is understood the officers have been called home to assist in training American forces for overseas duty.

General Mann, who left here in command of the "rainbow" division, said the men are comfortably billeted and are making satisfactory progress in training. They are in excellent health, he said, adding that through him the entire command sent home "heartily New Year's greetings to their home land and the American people."

Urges No Speculation
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—There had been no advance information of the return of Major Generals Sibert and Blatchford, but it was announced recently by the war department that General Mann had been relieved because of physical inability to stand field service.

Secretary Baker tonight declined to comment on the return of the generals and asked that there be no speculation on the subject.

General Sibert commanded the first division of expeditionary forces sent to France and the understanding has been that he would be the executive field commander of all troops under Pershing. He has been mentioned frequently as one of the probable selections for the rank of lieutenant general when army corps are formed in the expeditionary forces.

ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN BREF SESSION AND THEN JOURN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
PETROGRAD, Monday, Dec. 31.—The evening newspapers today declared that it is likely the constituent assembly will open tomorrow and quote Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, as their authority for the statement. It is expected that the assembly will hold only a brief session and then take a recess until after the Russian Christmas (January 1). Reports concerning the number of members elected to the assembly vary from 410 to 618. The officials at the Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, are expected to deny that the assembly shall not take upon itself the question of deciding the authority of the workers' and soldiers' deputies.

The German political delegates who are visiting Petrograd, headed by Count von Mirbach, are devoting much of their time to preliminary discussions of the question of trade relations.

Baron Admiral Keyserlingk declared today that no time was more suitable than the present for making peace, as he considered that it probably would be difficult to reach terms with the constituent assembly.

The Germans and also the Austrians who are in Petrograd are native themselves thoroughly at home visiting theaters, among them the French theater, and also the cafes and taking possession of a fine reading and lounge room in two adjoining hotels in which some of the allied officers are quartered.

The delegates expect to return to Breslau-Litovsk within two weeks.

Bulgarian and Turk delegates are due to arrive here tomorrow.

Sittings Began Monday
LONDON, Jan. 1.—According to Petrograd dispatches joint sittings of the Austro-German delegations with the Russian representatives began Monday, the members of the Breslau-Litovsk delegations participating. The discussions turned chiefly upon the fate of prisoners and trade relations.

The movement of the delegates from the central powers from hotel to hotel in search of better quarters has created amusement among the Russian newspapers, which say the Germans love luxury.

Details of the neutral powers have held a consultation in Petrograd concerning security of bank deposits belonging to their nationals.

According to an evening newspaper the Russian delegates who have returned from Breslau-Litovsk have expressed a readiness to evacuate White Russia, but declined to withdraw their troops from such bases as Riga and Libau, except in the event of a general peace.

A sailor named Ernyeff has been appointed temporary commander-in-chief of the Petrograd district.

It has been decided to hold a plebiscite in October to determine whether that city, the most important seaport of southern Russia and fourth city of the empire in population, shall belong to the Ukraine or White Russia.

A Ukrainian urban regiment which

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SAMUEL GOMPERS SENDS NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—In a New Year's greeting to all organized labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellows the issues involved in the war and the obligation that devolves upon all citizens. He also emphasizes the importance of seeing to it that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish them in international relations.

"War means victory for our cause and the very existence of our nation," says the address. "With our nation at stake, individuals cannot interpose opposition to the war—a war declared by the will of the nation's representatives. Under the exigencies of war, opposition to the war declared by constituted authority becomes treason."

While this is true, there is even more than ordinary need for the maintenance of the rights of men and women for careful scrutiny and the fullest discussion of policies and methods before their adoption. The time for labor to interpose its needs and contentions is while policies are in the making.

"The fighting and the concrete issues of the war are so far removed from the people of our country that not all of our citizens have a full understanding of the issues involved. An understanding of the principles of democracy is the central power desire to substitute for the real principles of freedom, makes clear to all citizens of this republic the effort of our possible defeat upon their own lives and activities."

"It is added to the fundamental principles at issue, labor has an additional interest in the war. This war is in the last analysis a people's war—the final outcome will be determined by the factories, the mills, the shops, the mines, the farms, the industries and the transportation agencies of the various countries. That group of countries which can most successfully organize its agencies of production and transport, which can furnish the most adequate and effective agencies with which to conduct the war, will win."

"The workers have a part in this war co-equal with the soldiers and sailors on the ships and in the trenches."

"Continuous production is an indispensable pre-requisite to production of necessary war supplies. The government, as well as the workers themselves, is vitally interested in maintaining such conditions that there shall be no occasion for interruption in production."

"The chief responsible agents of the government have shown a desire to be fair, and an understanding of the human elements involved in this problem. The organized labor movement has also shown an equally broad understanding and grasp of the situation."

Mr. Gompers quotes at length from the declaration adopted by labor's representatives meeting here on March 12, and from the resources of the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor, outlining the attitude of organized labor toward war work.

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COAL IS MOVING RAPIDLY

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Coal trains went forward today under new government orders based on the belief of Director General McAdoo that railway congestion rather than actual shortage is responsible for the fuel famine in many districts.

Upon receipt of reports that hundreds of loaded coal cars were stalled on sidings, all existing priority orders for the entire country were suspended by Robert S. Lovett, priority director of the war industries board, on recommendation of the director general. This is expected to result in quicker movement of the entire mass of congested freight.

President Wilson, it was learned tonight, will go before congress Friday to present his recommendations for legislation to make government operation fully effective and to provide for compensation of the carriers, and legislation which has already been drawn will be introduced immediately after his address. Some officials think there will be a vigorous fight over the question of whether the legislation should be effective only for the period of the war and a limited time thereafter, or should remain in force until specifically repealed or modified by congress.

Representatives of the railroads were to have appeared tomorrow before the senate interstate commerce committee when word came that the president desired to address congress. Friday, they asked permission to withhold their statements. The committee instead will hear Commissioner Atchison of the interstate commerce commission and then probably postpone further hearing until the president's message has been received.

Director General McAdoo ordered that the Pennsylvania company's tunnel under the Hudson river be kept open exclusively to passenger trains, be used to hasten coal supplies into the heart of New York City. That action was considered significant by railroad men because it indicated how determined the government is to use all facilities to their utmost, regardless of previous practices, to promote efficiency.

At the first conference of Mr. McAdoo with the new year with his advisers and executives, it was decided to put additional ships now controlled by the shipping board into service carrying coal from Hampton Roads to New York City. The next week, small boats can be spared will be determined tomorrow.

Hundreds of telegrams pouring into

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NEW YORK HAS ITS FIRST REAL RIOT OVER COAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—With another day of bitter cold and intense suffering from the general fuel shortage, New York had today its first real riot. The disorder began when several hundred men, women and children who had lined up outside a large coal yard at 119th street and the East river, discovered several loaded trucks leaving the yard after announcement had been made that there was no coal for sale. Some of those who had been waiting patiently with their babies, on once began to stone the office windows. Others followed the trucks, unhooked the rear chutes and seized the coal that streamed into the street. Police reserves were called and succeeded in restoring order when a representative coal would be sold in small lots after certain hospitals had been served.

Early relief from the fuel shortage is expected to result from an order issued today by William G. McAdoo, director general of railroads, permitting the Pennsylvania Railroad company's tunnel under the Hudson river, heretofore devoted to passenger traffic, to be used by incoming coal trains.

Navigation from New Jersey terminals across the Hudson to Manhattan Island is greatly impeded by ice floes and the Harlem river and Brooklyn's water approaches are in the same condition. In addition to the handicap of ice there is a shortage of labor owing to the rigorous weather.

The temperature today ranged from zero to six above at 10 o'clock tonight, and a slowly rising temperature was predicted by the weather bureau.

FEAR ANTARCTIC STEAMSHIP LOST

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Daily Mail says it is feared that the Antarctic ship Aurora, which took part in the Shackleton expedition, has been lost with all hands while returning to England. It is understood the vessel sailed from Wellington, N. Z., in June with a crew of about 32, and nothing has been heard from it since. Vessels sent out to search for it found only a life buoy marked "Aurora" and some wreckage. Lloyds recently posted the Aurora as being considerably overdue.

The Aurora, formerly a Newfoundland sealing steamer, carried the Mawson Antarctic expedition to Adelie land in 1913 and returned to England later in the same year. While going to the assistance of the Shackleton expedition early in 1916, the Aurora was damaged and returned to New Zealand, after leaving some of its crew at Ross Barrier. Sir Ernest Shackleton set out to rescue the members of the Aurora's crew in December, 1916. He found seven of them alive, but three others had perished.

STILL SUBJECT OF DRAFT
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 1.—Men of draft age who are employed by the government in the operation of railroads will not be classed as employees of the government, under the new regulation, according to word received today by Lieutenant Colonel J. H. McCord, from Provost General Crowder. Question has arisen as to whether the men should be classed as skilled government employees or skilled industrial employees.

FOR IMPORTING SYNDICATE
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
ZURICH, Jan. 1.—The Frankfurter Zeitung, a copy of which has been received here, prints a Berlin dispatch which says that an importing syndicate is organizing in Berlin to bring breadstuffs from Russia to Germany. The German government is said to have a half interest in the syndicate. The dispatch adds that similar syndicates are being organized in Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

WESTERN CATTLEMAN DIES
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—Silas H. Reynolds, 48 years old, of Darwin, Cal., president of the Western Cattleman's association, died in a private sanatorium here today. He came to New York for medical treatment three months ago.

ISSUE OF WORLD WAR DECIDED WITHIN SIX MONTHS AT LATEST

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 1.—This entente allies are entering the hardest period of the war, but a period which will prove richest in decisive results, "if we know how to play a good game and its issue will be decided in the next six months," according to Captain Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States who returned to his country today. He will go to Washington tomorrow.

The commissioner first arrived in this country last May. He returned to France in November and his government decided to continue his official title for a period of six months.

While Captain Tardieu pointed to the possibility of a strong German attack on the western front during this winter, he is "absolutely confident" that he will be another Verdun, he declared in a statement.

The urgency of an enormous economic effort was emphasized by the French representative in this statement.

The battle is not only on the battlefield. I have told the French, with complete frankness, what America expects from them in the way of restrictions and new sacrifices. I am coming back to explain here the necessary sacrifices that France and her allies are expecting from America for victory."

Men, wheat, oil, ships and locomotives are the things most needed and which America is able to give, Captain Tardieu said.

By way of tribute to Colonel E. M. House, who headed the American mission to the inter-allied war conference in Paris, Captain Tardieu said:

"Thanks to the presence of Colonel House and his associates the inter-allied conference has done excellent work. It was necessary that the government of the United States should assert its will and capacity to take in Europe, the part which belongs to America in the direction of the war."

"The French army has never been more magnificent," the British army is equally superb, and "the American army is increasing day by day."

Captain Tardieu said in speaking of the morale of the allied forces.

That he might retain his commission to the United States, Captain Tardieu declined to accept a portfolio in Premier Clemenceau's cabinet. He did this, he said, because he believed "nothing more urgent and more necessary than the work to be done through this commission."

SUGAR SUPPLY SOON TO BECOME NORMAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—A return to a normal sugar supply for the nation is not likely to be long deferred, the food administration announced tonight in outlining plans under which an increased allotment of sugar will be made to confectioners and manufacturers of non-essential food products containing sugar.

The fifty per cent allotment to which confectioners were limited when the sugar shortage became acute in October, will be increased to eighty per cent when the supply again becomes normal, it was announced, but continued efforts of manufacturers to reduce the sugar content of confectionery and soft drinks, substituting other sweetening materials.

Through a misunderstanding, food administration officials in New York last week announced that refiners already had been instructed to increase the allotment to confectioners to 80 per cent and that the full pre-war allowance would be made when conditions had returned to normal. It was explained tonight that the maximum allotment would be 80 per cent of normal and that all manufacturers would be required to reduce the sugar content of their products as far as possible.

MILK AND CORN SOON TO BE MUCH CHEAPER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—In approving milk prices fixed by the federal milk commission in New York City, Food Administrator Hoover said tonight that if government operation of the railroads results in relieving the traffic congestion so that sufficient cars can be returned to the corn belt, the price of corn to the consumer should fall rapidly with a resultant decrease in milk prices.

"The price of \$1.35 for corn in North Atlantic states is simply a problem of car shortage," said Mr. Hoover. "The farmers wish to dispose of their corn and trading is going on in certain localities as low as \$1.10 a bushel. The corn raiser does not benefit from a high market when he cannot sell. Therefore, our feed and our milk situations are inextricably tangled with our railway situation. If we can secure free movement of grain there is hope of cheaper milk."

"Very little flying was possible Monday owing to the mist. During the night, although the improvement was only slight, our airplanes dropped over a hundred bombs on hostile billets in the neighborhood of Roulers and Meulen. Several direct hits were obtained. A moving train was bombed and hit."

"All of our machines returned."

The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight says:

"An attempt was made early this morning under cover of a heavy bombardment against one of our posts northeast of Loos was successfully repulsed. There was hostile artillery activity during the day in the neighborhood of La Vacquerie, south of Lens, northeast of Arras and east of Ypres."

"During December we captured a total of 16,000 German prisoners, including 12 officers, four guns, three trench mortars and 103 machine guns."

A dispatch from the Exchange Telegraph from Petrograd says there is an unconfirmed report that Lieutenant General L. G. Korniloff, former commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, is dead.

Battle Is Resumed
PETROGRAD, Dec. 31.—The battle (Continued on Page Two)

BRITISH MUSEUM TAKEN OVER BY THE AIR BOARD

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Star says the government has taken over the British museum to be used as offices for the air board.

The government's decision to appropriate the British museum appears destined to provoke great agitation among antiquarians and scholars. Sir John E. Sandys, public orator in Cambridge university, has written a vigorous letter of protest pointing out that it would be impossible to remove more than a fraction of the valuable contents of the museum, and that what was left probably would be damaged by ill usage.

Sir John also referred to the fire risk of the new occupancy and moreover, that the building, whose treasures are the envy of Germany, had not

as yet been attacked from the air. He feared, however, that when the air board were installed there it would be regarded as the legitimate object of the enemy's attack.

Several of the morning newspapers have been vigorous in their criticism of the government's decision to appropriate the British museum for the use of the air board. They declare that it is "preposterous," "a serious scandal," and an "unjustifiable act of vandalism."

An official statement has not yet been issued, but it is believed generally the decision to use the museum has actually been taken.

The British museum, which was founded in 1753, contains antiquities, drawings, prints and a library of more than two million volumes besides numerous manuscripts and charts.